

May 1, 2008

Clyde L. Reese, III  
General Counsel  
Department of Community Health  
2 Peachtree Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Atlanta, GA 30303

**RE: Questions Resulting from Changes to the CON Statute  
Therapeutic Cardiac Catheterization; Acquisition of Cardiac Catheterization  
Equipment**

Dear Mr. Reese:

Statesboro HMA, Inc. d/b/a East Georgia Regional Medical Center (EGRMC) is a Certificate of Need authorized provider of adult diagnostic cardiac catheterization services approved through Project No. 1998-005 (under the hospital's former name, Bulloch Memorial Hospital). While EGRMC was not one of the 10 hospitals selected to participate in the C-PORT Study, it is extremely interested in the opportunity to provide therapeutic cardiac catheterizations.

**Senate Bill 433 Changes**

**ISSUE: 31-6-47 (22): Therapeutic Cardiac Catheterization Exemption from CON**

*Therapeutic cardiac catheterizations in hospitals selected by the department prior to July 1, 2008 to participate in the Atlantic Cardiovascular Patient Outcomes Research Team (C-PORT) Study and therapeutic cardiac catheterization in hospitals that, as determined by the department on an annual basis, meet the criteria to participate in the C-PORT Study but have not been selected for participation; provided, however, that if the criteria requires a transfer to another hospital, no hospital shall unreasonably deny a transfer agreement to another hospital.*

**31-6-47-1: Reporting**

*The department may require prior notice and approval of any activity which is believed to be exempt pursuant to paragraphs (10), (15), (16), (17), (20), (21), (23), (25) and (26) of subsection (a) of the Code Section 31-6-47.*

**Question: Therapeutic Cardiac Catheterization**

1. How and what process will the Department use to advise hospitals if they can proceed with providing adult therapeutic cardiac catheterizations? Will there be any ongoing monitoring and/or reporting required?

**ISSUE: 31-6-2(14)(A)(B): Definitions, Threshold Amounts**

*The term develop is defined to include:*

*(A) Constructing, remodeling, installing, or proceeding with a project, or any part of a project, or a capital expenditure project, the cost estimate which exceeds \$2,500,000; or*

*(B) The expenditure or commitment of funds exceeding \$1,000,000 for orders, purchases, leases or acquisitions through other comparable arrangements of major medical equipment; provided,*

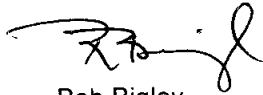
*however, that this shall not include build out costs, as defined by the department, but shall include all functionally related equipment software and services contract costs for the first five years.*

**Question: Cardiac Catheterization Equipment**

2. It appears that adult diagnostic cardiac catheterization services are no longer reviewable as a new institutional health service. The project cost threshold has been increased to \$2.5 million.
  - (a) Can EGRMC acquire a second cardiac catheterization unit (equipment), if the cost is less than \$2.5 million or is the \$1 million threshold applicable? Does the threshold amount include the cost of equipment and any renovation costs, if necessary, to install the equipment?
  - (b) If the cost of the cardiac catheterization project exceeds the appropriate threshold, would the project be reviewed under the general considerations?

If you need any additional information please advise me. Thank you for your assistance and for providing this opportunity to inquire as to the effect of changes in the CON process.

Sincerely,



Bob Bigley,  
Chief Executive Officer